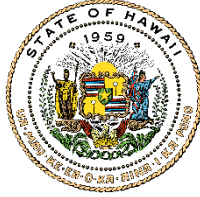


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

DEAN D. UYENO
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
TRANSPORTATION

Thursday, February 08, 2024
9:00 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 312 & Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2175
RELATING TO THE KAAWA-HAULA COMMUNITY-BASED LONG-RANGE
TRANSPORTATION PLAN

House Bill 2175 proposes to appropriate funds for and requires the involvement of community members and organizations in the development of a community-based long-range transportation plan for the Ka'a'awa and Hau'ula communities. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports this bill and offers the following comments.**

The Department strongly supports all initiatives for community-engaged planning to address the imminent threat to the safety and economic well-being of communities impacted by sea level rise. Kamehameha Highway is experiencing wave overwash and ongoing erosion which threatens the integrity of the roadway, resulting in emergency measures to protect this vital infrastructure at the expense of beach health throughout the district of Ko'olauloa. Department staff looks forward to working with the Hawai'i Department of Transportation (HDOT) and impacted communities faced with difficult choices which place natural resource protection and the maintenance of transportation infrastructure at odds.

The Department recommends amending the bill to include Punalu'u, which is located between Ka'a'awa and Hau'ula and which faces similar concerns regarding the impacts of sea level rise on the highway infrastructure. In partnership with the State Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Commission and HDOT, the Department is currently engaged in an ongoing project to address the threat of sea level rise and coastal inundation to the highway and park infrastructure at Punalu'u Beach Park. The Punalu'u Community Association is involved in implementing nature-based measures at the beach park to address these threats.

The Department recommends the following amendments to include the community of Punalu‘u in this effort:

At Section 1, page 1, lines 1-9 of this bill:

SECTION 1. The legislature acknowledges the escalating challenges posed by climate change and coastal erosion and the imperative need to preserve access to rural communities along our coastlines. Recognizing the specific vulnerabilities faced by the communities of Kaaawa, Punaluu, and Hauula, including the urgency of addressing coastal erosion and road conditions, the legislature finds that it is essential to embark on community based, long-range planning tailored to the unique needs of these ~~two~~ communities.

At Section 1, page 1, lines 10-14 of this bill:

The legislature is committed to strategically addressing the threats of climate change and coastal erosion by discussing the future of Kamehameha highway in Kaaawa, Punaluu, and Hauula with the community and finding solutions to maintain transportation routes that link these rural communities.

At Section 1, page 2, lines 8-11 of this bill:

Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for and require the involvement of community members and organizations in the development of a community-based long-range transportation plan for the Kaaawa, Punaluu, and Hauula communities.

At Section 2, page 2, lines 12-15 of this bill:

SECTION 2. (a) The department of transportation shall develop a community-based long-range transportation plan to devise and implement long-term solutions for coastal erosion along Kamehameha highway ~~in~~ from Kaaawa ~~and~~ to Hauula.

At Section 2, page 2, lines 16-21 to page 3, lines 1-5 of this bill:

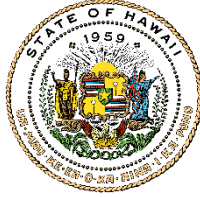
(b) To ensure the involvement of key community stakeholders in this planning process, the department of transportation and any entity designated by the department of transportation shall invite and consult with the following entities or individuals in the development process of the Kaaawa-Hauula community-based long-range transportation plan:

- (1) The department of land and natural resources;
- (2) Koolauloa Neighborhood Board;
- (3) Koolauloa Hawaiian Civic Club;
- (4) Kaaawa Community Association; ~~and~~
- (5) Punaluu Community Association; and
- ~~(5)~~ (6) Hauula Community Association.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

DEAN D. UYENO
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
TRANSPORTATION

Thursday, February 08, 2024
9:00 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 312 & Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2175
RELATING TO THE KAAWA-HAULA COMMUNITY-BASED LONG-RANGE
TRANSPORTATION PLAN

House Bill 2175 proposes to appropriate funds for and requires the involvement of community members and organizations in the development of a community-based long-range transportation plan for the Ka'a'awa and Hau'ula communities. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports this bill and offers the following comments.**

The Department strongly supports all initiatives for community-engaged planning to address the imminent threat to the safety and economic well-being of communities impacted by sea level rise. Kamehameha Highway is experiencing wave overwash and ongoing erosion which threatens the integrity of the roadway, resulting in emergency measures to protect this vital infrastructure at the expense of beach health throughout the district of Ko'olauloa. Department staff looks forward to working with the Hawai'i Department of Transportation (HDOT) and impacted communities faced with difficult choices which place natural resource protection and the maintenance of transportation infrastructure at odds.

The Department recommends amending the bill to include Punalu'u, which is located between Ka'a'awa and Hau'ula and which faces similar concerns regarding the impacts of sea level rise on the highway infrastructure. In partnership with the State Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Commission and HDOT, the Department is currently engaged in an ongoing project to address the threat of sea level rise and coastal inundation to the highway and park infrastructure at Punalu'u Beach Park. The Punalu'u Community Association is involved in implementing nature-based measures at the beach park to address these threats.

The Department recommends the following amendments to include the community of Punalu‘u in this effort:

At Section 1, page 1, lines 1-9 of this bill:

SECTION 1. The legislature acknowledges the escalating challenges posed by climate change and coastal erosion and the imperative need to preserve access to rural communities along our coastlines. Recognizing the specific vulnerabilities faced by the communities of Kaaawa, Punaluu, and Hauula, including the urgency of addressing coastal erosion and road conditions, the legislature finds that it is essential to embark on community based, long-range planning tailored to the unique needs of these ~~two~~ communities.

At Section 1, page 1, lines 10-14 of this bill:

The legislature is committed to strategically addressing the threats of climate change and coastal erosion by discussing the future of Kamehameha highway in Kaaawa, Punaluu, and Hauula with the community and finding solutions to maintain transportation routes that link these rural communities.

At Section 1, page 2, lines 8-11 of this bill:

Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for and require the involvement of community members and organizations in the development of a community-based long-range transportation plan for the Kaaawa, Punaluu, and Hauula communities.

At Section 2, page 2, lines 12-15 of this bill:

SECTION 2. (a) The department of transportation shall develop a community-based long-range transportation plan to devise and implement long-term solutions for coastal erosion along Kamehameha highway ~~in~~ from Kaaawa ~~and~~ to Hauula.

At Section 2, page 2, lines 16-21 to page 3, lines 1-5 of this bill:

(b) To ensure the involvement of key community stakeholders in this planning process, the department of transportation and any entity designated by the department of transportation shall invite and consult with the following entities or individuals in the development process of the Kaaawa-Hauula community-based long-range transportation plan:

- (1) The department of land and natural resources;
- (2) Koolauloa Neighborhood Board;
- (3) Koolauloa Hawaiian Civic Club;
- (4) Kaaawa Community Association; ~~and~~
- (5) Punaluu Community Association; and
- ~~(5)~~ (6) Hauula Community Association.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



TESTIMONY BY:

EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

Deputy Directors
Nā Hope Luna Ho'okele
DREANALEE K. KALILI
TAMMY L. LEE
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO

STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 8, 2024

9:00 a.m.

State Capitol, RM 312 Videoconference

H.B. 2175

**RELATING TO THE KAAWA-HAUULA COMMUNITY-BASED LONG-RANGE
TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

House Committee on Transportation

The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) **supports H.B. 2175** which appropriates funds for the HDOT and requires the involvement of community members and organizations in the development of a community-based long-range transportation plan for the Kaaawa and Hauula communities.

Unavoidably, climate change, sea level rise, and coastal erosion pose a constant risk to the integrity of our vital coastal Kamehameha Highway, which is the only route connecting the windward communities of Kaneohe, Kahaluu, Kaaawa, Punaluu, Hauula and Laie. Kamehameha Highway has been undermined multiple times at various locations due to wave action. The coastal erosion is severe in Kaaawa and Hauula, where Kamehameha Highway is in very close proximity to the shoreline.

To keep Kamehameha Highway operational and avoid cutting off highway access, HDOT performed many emergency and short to mid-term fixes to address the undermining of the Highway. HDOT also has a large mid-term (25 years design-life) project for the Kualoa, Kaaawa, Punaluu and Hauula communities which will address approximately 3 miles of the critical erosion areas along Kamehameha Highway.

We understand that these projects are not the long-term solution for the windward communities when it comes to coastal erosion. However, these projects can provide protection to Kamehameha Highway while the various government departments, communities, and other stakeholders get together and develop a long-range transportation plan. HDOT supports both the community-based and long-range approach to transportation planning that this measure proposes.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HB-2175

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 9:59:50 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raynae Fonoimoana	Ko'olauloa Hawaiian Civic Club	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Ko'olauloa Hawaiian Civic Club supports HB2175 to appropriate funds for community members and organizations within each of the ahupua'a to be involved in the discussions and development of a community-based long-range transportation plan for the Ka'a'awa and Hau'ula communities.

HB-2175

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 3:26:39 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert "Kealoha" Domingo	Kaaawa Community Association	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

I am Robert “Kealoha” Domingo and I am a multigenerational Ka’awa kupa‘āina, father of 4 sons and the current President of the Ka’awa Community Association.

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2175 related to allocating funds for the Ka’awa to Hau’ula Community Based Long Range transport plan. You don’t need to be a scientist or engineer to know that our Ko’olauloa coastline is in dire need of attention.

In my lifetime, I have witnessed drastic changes to the coastline, sea level rise and the inherent threat to Kamehameha Hwy. our community lifeline for daily needs, emergency support as well as the daily commute that many Ko’olauloa residents make to subsist here in Hawai’i.

In my father’s lifetime, naturally he has witnessed even more drastic change.

I write to urge you, our honorable elected officials to please act quickly so that we may begin to address this eminent threat before it is too late. These community discussions should have been started decades ago and we absolutely need to move forward with urgency.

On behalf of the Ka’awa Community Association, my family who reside in our beloved town of Ka’awa and my own immediate family, especially my four sons who I hope will have every opportunity to remain on our treasured piko ‘āina for generations to come.

Mahalo piha,

R. Kealoha Domingo

KCA President

Multigenerational Resident

HB-2175

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:10:37 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terry Galpin	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha, As a long time resident of Koolauloa I encourage you to support this bill. It's time to get this done before the highway falls in the ocean.

HB-2175

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:06:13 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Madeline C Neely	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in STRONG support of HB2175

It has become an urgent necessity to resolve the drastic erosion on, Kamehameha Hwy., in Kaaawa-Hauula, which is the life line for residences of the North Shore, as well as, for the necessities of the commodity of commerce and consumers which government shall be obligated and responsible to protect and to serve.

HB-2175

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:42:26 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dorian Wright	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I live in Hauula and make the commute to town four days a week for work. I've noticed this year during the big storms that the road to town is getting really bad especially in Kaaawa. One day I saw a wave hit the rock pile along Kaawa and it made a wave splash over an entire semi truck. Many times I've driven to town and the entire road is covered in wet salt water. Punaluu beach park is also eroding at an alarming rate with one house at the end of the beach park being hauled off already. In Japan and American Samoa they use the big concrete X's in the sea by roads to help with erosion. I think that would be a good start. It is definitely getting in the red zone where something needs should be done sooner than later.

mahalo,

dorian wright

HB-2175

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 2:46:39 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia A Moes Robertson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a member of the Kaaawa community, I will be involved in the development of a community-based long-range transportation plan for Kaaawa and Hauula.

Kam Hwy sometimes is closed due to waves, water and sand being thrown onto the roadway. The highway has disintegrated and has collapsed in many places from Kualoa Ranch to Hauula.

With climate change and the buses and trucks that drive this road, it won't be long before a catastrophe happens. Now is the time for a comprehensive plan and for action to fix the problems.

HB-2175

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:07:37 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allen Awaya	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill starts a long-needed effort in the communities of Kaaawa and Hauula. The shoreline has been eroding for decades and previous measures to remedy the situation were temporary at best, exacerbated the erosion at worst. Hopefully, a longterm solution can be found and we will not be confronted with the same fate as is facing those living on the North Shore. Mahalo for considering this measure.

HB-2175

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 12:04:20 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Serena Stefanic-Phillip	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of bill HB 2175

HB-2175

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 7:48:52 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Oberle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2175.